

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 00527 010945Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 PM-05 /036 W  
-----113076 012140Z /72  
R 010901Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5176  
INFO JCS WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0527

FOR EUR VINE AND OES MINK

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: TGEN, SV, XQ, NO  
SUBJECT: NANSEN DRIFT STATION

REF: (A) STATE 014156 (B) OSLO 17 (C) OSLO 150

1. I AM DISAPPOINTED AND SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S STATUS REPORT ON THE NANSEN DRIFT STATION PROJECT.
2. AS THE EMBASSY REPORTED IN JANUARY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER CAME AWAY FROM THE OCTOBER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE NANSEN PROJECT WAS A HIGH PRIORITY USG PROJECT AND THAT THE OBSTACLES WERE BEING DEALT WITH ON THAT BASIS. IT IS CLEAR THAT HIS CONFIDENCE IN THIS REGARD LED HIM TO INCLUDE MENTION OF THE PROJECT IN HIS NEW YEAR'S TELEVISION INTERVIEW.
3. AT THIS POINT OUR INABILITY TO POINT TO ANY SORT OF DEFINITE STATUS FOR THE PROJECT, LET ALONE ANYTHING IN THE WAY OF A TIME-TABLE, AFTER SOME YEARS OF CONSIDERATION, IS BECOMING AN EMBARRASSMENT IN OUR DEALINGS WITH THE GON.

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4. I WOULD, FOR BACKGROUND PURPOSES, LIKE TO KNOW THE SOURCE OR SOURCES OF THE PROBLEM. WHO, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS QUESTIONED THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT? SECONDLY, I AM PUZZLED TO HEAR THAT THE PROJECT'S SCIENTIFIC VALUE HAS BEEN QUESTIONED ESPECIALLY SINCE THE MESSAGE/ALSO NOTED THAT ONR AND THE NSF, PRESUMABLY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES ON THE SCIENTIFIC VALUE OF THE STATION,

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IT. FINALLY, WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ENJOINER ON FUNDING FOR THE NANSEN DRIFT STATION? HAS THE DEPARTMTNT LOOKED INTO THE REASONS FOR THE ENJOINER AND DISCUSSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT WITH THE RELEVANT CONGRESSMAN OR CONGRESSMEN?

5. I HAVE NOT YET SPOKEN WITH FRYDENLUND ON THIS TOPIC. UNFORTUNATELY, I DO NOT FEEL THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S LATEST REPORT ON THE SUBJECT PROVIDES ME EITHER WITH ANYTHING NEW TO SAY OR WITH MUCH IN THE WAY OF SPECIFICS WITH WHICH TO EXPLAIN OUR FAILURE TO DELIVER.

6. MY TASK IS ADDITIONALLY COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HERE IN OSLO NOTED THE PRESIDENT'S CALL IN HIS BUDGET MESSAGE FOR AN ELEVEN PERCENT INCREASE IN SCIENTIFIC FUNDS WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO CLIMATIC STUDIES.

7. THE MOST DISTRESSING ASPECT OF THE PROJECT'S CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY, HOWEVER, IS ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OUR LARGER OBJECTIVES IN THIS REGION. FOR SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE EMPHASIZED

TO THE NORWEGIANS THE FACT THAT THEIR DIFFICULT ROLE ON SVALBARD HAS IMPORTANT STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE. WE HAVE STRESSED THE VALUE OF GETTING OTHER FRIENDLY TREATY SIGNATORIES INVOLVED ON THE ARCHIPELAGO AND HAVE GIVEN THEM REPEATED ASSURANCES OF OUR SUPPORT  
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FOR THEIR ROLE. I DO NOT SEE HOW, AT THIS POINT, WE CAN TELL THE GON THAT WHILE WE REGARD THIS PROBLEM AS IMPORTANT, WE ARE UNABLE, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, TO REPORT ANY PROGRESS DUE TO ESSENTIALLY INTERNAL BUREAUCRATIC FUNDING PROBLEMS. IF WE CANNOT HELP WITH THE NANSEN PROJECT, WHAT SPECIFIC ALTERNATIVES CAN WE PROPOSE?  
LERNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), TRACKING STATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 14156, 78 OSLO 17, 78 OSLO 150  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Subject:** NANSEN DRIFT STATION  
**TAGS:** TGEN, SV, XQ, NO  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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